

DESCRIPTION,  
AND  
*HISTORICAL ACCOUNT,*  
OF  
THE PLACES  
NOW THE THEATRE OF WAR  
IN THE  
*LOW COUNTRIES,*

VIZ.

|              |                  |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Charlemont   | lers             | Armentieres  | Landrecies       |
| Givet        | Saint Paul       | Orchies      | Philippeville    |
| Arras        | Dunkirk          | Comines      | Avesnes          |
| Saint Omer   | Berg Saint Vinox | La Bassée    | Chimay           |
| Bethune      | Cassel           | Tourcoing    | Bavay            |
| Aire         | Bourbourg        | Valenciennes | Cambray          |
| Lens         | Gravelines       | Maubège      | Cateau Cambresis |
| Bapaume      | Lille            | Conde        | Thionville       |
| Hedin        | Douay            | Le Quesnoy   | Montmedi, &c.    |
| Saint Venant | Saint Amant      | Bouchain     |                  |

EMBELLISHED WITH A FRONTISPIECE,  
AND PLANS OF THOSE PLACES

The most Remarkable for their Fortifications.

By *PHILIP ASTLEY, Esq.*  
OF HERCULES-HALL, LAMBETH, LONDON.

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1794.





to  
**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS,**  
**FREDERICK,**  
**DUKE OF YORK,**

*&c. &c.*

**COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE BRITISH FORCES  
NOW ON THE CONTINENT:**

*May it please your Royal Highness,*

**T**HE ability which your ROYAL HIGHNESS has shewn in the councils of your country, at a time when she stood in need of your assistance, and the skill and courage which you have displayed in the field, while defending her cause, intitle you, at least, to the praise of every Briton, whose wish is to preserve the constitution of our happy land inviolate; a constitution which  
has

has been sealed with the blood of our ancestors, and to whose manes we should be a disgrace, were we not to transmit it to posterity pure and un-  
follied.

Being myself one of those men (and the reflection affords me no small degree of satisfaction) who are ever ready to draw their swords in defence of their King, I glory the more in your Highness's talents, and the victories which they have atchieved; and it is from my knowledge of them, joined to my attachment to the Illustrious Family from which you sprung, that I am emboldened to crave your patronage to the following work, and to hope for pardon for my presumption in requesting it.

That



That your Royal Highness may  
return triumphant to your country,  
adorned with immortal laurels; and  
that Englishmen may ever have a  
Prince of the House of Brunswick to  
defend their rights, whenever honor or  
necessity shall call them forth, is the  
unfeigned wish of,

*Your Highnesses*

*Most humble, obedient,*

*And devoted Servant,*

THE AUTHOR.

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TO THE PUBLIC.

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*THAT* part of Flanders, of which the following is a description, having frequently been disputed by the various European powers, the author conceives, that an undertaking like this will not be unacceptable to the public, particularly at a time when that country exhibits nothing but incampments, sieges, blockades, daily skirmishes, and frequent battles; when half the world is interested in its welfare, and when it is the earnest prayer of every good citizen, of every clime, that she may be restored to her ancient government and tranquillity, under which alone the law and sovereign can be respected, and the people free.

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\* \* \* As this book was chiefly written in camp, and printed in a hurry, it is hoped that the indulgent reader will overlook such errors as may appear in it.

CON-



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## DESCRIPTION,



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### CHARLEMONT.

**T**HE Emperor Charles the Vth built this little city in 1555, and called it after himself; in Latin CAROLO-MONTIUM; it lies in the county of Namur, and the fortifications are very good and regular. This place stands on a mountain, at the foot of which runs the Maes: the way to it is very difficult; and as it can only be approached on one side, which is defended by strong works, it may be considered as almost inaccessible.

Its territory was formerly held from the principality of Liege and county of Agimont: it contains 33 market towns and villages, besides the fortresses of Charlemont and Philippeville. Charlemont joins

( 3 )  
to the city of Givet, is three leagues from Dinant and Philippeville, six from Rocroi, and seven from Namur. The French became masters of this city the 28th of April, 1679, have kept possession of it ever since, and have added to it many new works: it contains only one parish.

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### GIVET.

**T**HIS small city, now united to Charlemont, consists of two smaller ones, separated from each other by the Maes:---that on the side of Charlemont is called GIVET-SAINT-HILAIRE, and that which stands on the opposite side of the river, is called GIVET-NOTRE-DAME.

GIVET, which about 40 years back was an insignificant place, has since been rendered one of consequence, and now exhibits, instead of ill-constructed dwellings, narrow and crooked lanes, large and handsome houses, and straight long and open streets. For this the world are indebted to the Marshal Vauban.

GIVET-SAINT-HILAIRE was so called after its parish-church, dedicated to St. Hilary, bishop of Poitiers. It consists of a small canton of houses, badly



badly built, which has the appearance of an ancient village, and of several new streets, which occupy a space five or six times larger than the canton.

Among many things worthy of remark is the Grand Place, in the construction of which grandeur and regularity have been consulted:---it stands on a spot formerly a waste, between Givet and Charlemont. The old place is also handsome and regular, but above all the Barracks merit notice, which are inferior to none, and are now set apart for the new levies both foot and horse.

Givet is entered by two gates, one of which leads from Bouvigne, and the other from the wooden bridge lately built, and which serves as a communication with the other Givet. In the ditch, which is dry and cut out of a rock, are placed six grand flanked half moons, and that which covers the gate is intrenched with a smaller half-moon, and surrounded by a ditch also. The inclosure on the side of the river consists of one simple wall, but good and solid (the foundation of which is under water) and defended by several bastions. Along the wall on the inner side, at the foot of the rock on which the city stands, is a grand and magnificent range of barracks, consisting of three large pavillions. On the side of the Maes, is a remarkable redoubt: it is a work erected with much skill, and on an height which commands the town; its figure is octagon. This redoubt is pierced with two or three rows of port holes, and surrounded by a dry ditch.

GIVET - NOTRE - DAME bears the name of the church dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This place has two enclosures, forming as it were two cities, the higher and the lower; the highest part is a mere waste, reserved for the purpose of keeping possession of the heights. The inclosure, which is of a very irregular form, is defended by four large bastions.

The side of the redoubt next the river has no other defence than a steep rock, but which however is inaccessible. There is on the ridge of the river, near the rock, and close to a flood or waterfall, which proceeds from it, another redoubt of a square form, and excellent construction. That part of the inclosure where a ditch could be formed is covered by two half moons, one of which is counter-guarded; the whole accompanied as usual with its traverses, place of arms, and glacis; and that which stretches from the river to the flood has only a small ditch cut out of the rock.

The lower town is divided into two parts by a small river, one of old and the other of new date; the former consisting only of one street, while the latter, on the contrary, is considerable. The PLACE D'ARMES is of a good size, on the border of the little river, and not in the centre of the town as in all new cities. This place has three gates. The canal from the little river has been much enlarged, is adorned on both sides with quays, well built, and from its circular course forms several islands, on one of which is a long square



square castle, flanked with four round towers, after the manner of the ancients. On the other side is a flood-gate.

### ARRAS.

**I**S one of the most ancient cities of the Low Countries: Antoine makes mention of it; so does Julius Cæsar; the former under the name of NEMETACUM, and the latter under that of ANTEBATUM.--- It is situated on the Scarp, five leagues from Douay and Dourlens, seven from Cambray, ten from Lisle, and about fourteen from Amiens and St. Omers.

ARRAS, the capital of Artois, is on a mountain; its environs are full of quarries of white stone, and indeed it is observed in many parts of the city, that people in digging their cellars find there sufficient stone to build their houses with that article. The citadel, constructed after the plans of Vauban, is fortified according to all the rules of the art; but it is situated on such low ground, that it is of little or no consequence; on this account it has obtained the name of *La Belle Inutile* (the handsome inutility.)

The Grand Place of Arras is of an extraordinary size for a fortified city: in that of the little market-

place (not far distant from the other) is the town-house.

The cathedral-church of NOTRE-DAME, which is very spacious, and well ornamented, was thus beautified in 1396, but was much damaged by fire in 1571. The tower is very high, and has an handsome clock, on which are seen several small moving figures of brass, representing the mysteries of the passion of our Saviour, and which, by the assistance of certain springs, pass before the dial, striking the hours and half-hours. This piece of workmanship was put up it in 1541.

The rich abbey of St. Vaast, of the order of St. Benedict, formerly called NIBLIACUM, is here; its origin is dated from the year 660. This abbey was freed from the jurisdiction of the bishop by an act of the foundation, confirmed by the council of Compiègne. It is asserted that its revenues amount to 300,000 livres per annum. In 1741 the tower, from its decayed state, threatened destruction to the houses and inhabitants adjoining; a circumstance which produced a resolution to rebuilt it. The abbot of St. Vaast exercises, by an official (or deputy) the spiritual, and by his twelve echevins (or aldermen) the temporal jurisdiction in the city: he has the right of patronage of more than eighty towns and villages, besides that of a college, supported by the religious at Douay, and another at Paris; and the Provosts of Haspre, Berclau, Beu-



**Beuvrières, Angicourt, near Paris, and St. Michael, near Arras, are subject to him.**

The parish-churches of this city are, **Notre-Dame**, a cathedral in the town; **St. Croix**; **St. Aubert**; **St. Gery**; **St. Nicholas-a-Latte**; **St. Maurice**; **St. John**; **St. Nicaise**; **St. Nicholas on the ditches**; **St. Stephen**; and **Mary Magdalen**. Before 1155, there was also a collegiate church, dedicated to **St. Peter**; but its revenues were made over to the abbey of **St. Vaast**, and the chapter was suppressed.

**Charles the Hardy**, duke of Burgundy and count of Artois, having been killed before Nancy, in Lorraine, **Lewis XI. King of France**, seized Arras in 1477, aided by the treachery of the governor *Philip-de-Grève-Cœur*; but **Maximilian**, arch-duke of Austria, retook it in 1492, by the assistance of some of the citizens, who caused a double set of the keys of the town to be made for that purpose.

In 1578, the party of the prince of Orange declared themselves masters of this place under the command of one **Ambrose de Hasper**, a man of low birth; but the Catholic citizens again stepped forward, and with the garrison treated them so roughly, that they were driven off, and several of the ring-leaders taken, some of whom were hanged, others banished. A French army, under the marshals **Chaulnes**, **Châtillon**, and **Meilleraye**, besieged Arras the

the 19th of June, 1640, when the young duke of Enghien commanded the volunteers. The besieged were encouraged by an old proverb, said to have been formerly engraved on one of their gates, viz.

*Quand les François prendront Arras,*

*Les Souris prendront les Chats.*

IMITATED.

When the French masters of Arras are,

Mice shall subdue the Cats by war.

But they were mistaken, the infant cardinal, and the duke of Lorraine, with six other generals, and an army of 30,000 men, made every effort to relieve it, and for that purpose attempted to cut off the communication of the besiegers, and twice attacked their lines, but the Spaniards were always repulsed, and on the 9th of August the city surrendered.

The prince of Condé, who espoused the cause of Spain, laid siege to it for that crown in 1654; but Turenne, Ferté, and Hocquincourt, having forced his lines, obliged him to raise it. The infantry immediately gave way, when the arch-due Leopald, and the count of Feuensaildaine, who commanded them, were forced to retire in disorder towards Cambray. As to the prince of Condé, he made a good retreat, after having first favored that of the others. The Spaniards lost on that day all their cannon and baggage, with 2000 men made prisoners. Arras was yielded



yielded to France at the peace of the Pyrennees, concluded in 1659.

The 3d of March, 1712, a body of 25,000 men, of the allied troops, having penetrated close to the town, threw into it several bombs, but without doing much injury.

The government of Arras consists in 314 villages and hamlets, besides 27 of Oisy, and 27 of Aubigny-la-Manche. There are many handsome and noble abbeys, which render the environs very agreeable, the principal of which are Mont-Saint-Eloi, Maroëul, Avesnes, and Estreun.

### *SAINT OMER.*

**S**AINTE OMER, bishop of Terouane, and Saint Bertin, abbot, were the founders of this city, which is the second of the province of Artois, it is situated on the river Aa, which forms in its environs several marshes and inundations, is three leagues from Aire, about eight from Calais, Dunkirk, and Boulogne, and fourteen from Arras. The ground of SITHIEU, on which this city stands, formerly belonged to a rich lord, of the name of Aldroald: he was converted by St. Omer, and having no children he made him an offer,

offer, in 655, of this part of his estate, for the purpose of building an hospital thereon; but the Saint persuaded him to the contrary, and to give it to Bertin, for the erection of a monastery in honor of St. Peter. This is the origin of the abbey of St. Bertin, which in a short time after became so celebrated, as well from the number of persons who took the oath, as the variety of those who established themselves in the town; which in the end became a grand and beautiful city, retaining the name of AUDOMAREM, or AUDOMAROPOLIS, in honor of St. Omer, through whose means the foundation of this abbey was procured, and by whom was built the church dedicated to the Virgin, now the cathedral of the place. Foulques, abbot of St. Bertin, afterwards Bishop of Rheims, began in 881 to enclose his abbey, and the houses contiguous; and count Boudoin the Bald, made it a walled city in 900:---nature and art have conspired to render it of great strength: it has a castle for its defence, under the command of a distinct governor. On the walls are seen several towers, after the manner of the ancients, and various bastions and half-moons, well executed, defended by large deep ditches, &c. Since the time that Vauban completed the fortifications of this place, it has been considered as one of the most importance of the conquered country.

The cathedral church of St. Omer is very handsome, though built after the Gothic style: its chapter is ancient, illustrious, and rich.

Beside



Beside the above there are six parish churches, namely, St. Aldegonde, St. Denis, and St. Sepulchre, of the collation of the chapter of the cathedral; and St. John, St. Martin, and St. Margaret, of that of the abbot of St. Bertin. The beautiful and magnificent abbey of St. Bertin, of the order of St. Benedict, merits the particular notice of the stranger; the steeple of the church is large, high, and of a square form, was built in 1431, and from it may be discerned, in fine weather, the English coast. In this church Philip the Good had two chapters of the order of the Golden Fleece; the first in 1440, when he created four knights, and the second in 1461, when six were installed.

It is asserted that this abbey possesses more than 100,000 livres a year; it contains about 50 friars, who are remarked for their regularity and application to study;---that of AUCHI-LES-MOINES, the provosts of POPERINGUES SITHIEU, &c. depend on it.

The French besieged St. Omer in 1638, but were obliged to decamp at the approach of the army of Octavo Piccolomini, duke of Amalphi, general of the combined troops of the king of Spain and the emperor. They again besieged it, and with more success, in 1677, under the duke of Orleans, brother to Lewis XIV.---the trenches were opened the 4th of April, and the place carried the 20th of the same month, after the famous battle of Cassel. The gar-  
rison

risen consisting of 15 or 1600 men, under the orders of Prince Robecq, governor of the city, and the commandant count St. Venant, were conducted to Ghent, and the French were acknowledged masters of the place, by the treaty of Nimeguen, in 1678.

Among the suburbs of this city, those of HAUT-PONT (high bridge) are the best and most remarkable; they contain 300 houses, inhabited by Flemish people, who associate among themselves, stick to their own language and manner of living, and dress in a very singular style. The bailiwick of St. Omer contains 79 villages and hamlets.

Belonging to it near the city are vast and extensive marshes, surrounded by a collection of waters, which flow on all sides, and on which are seen several floating islands, covered with trees and verdure, affording to the eye a sight truly agreeable. These islands are easily drawn by a cord to any part of the water, and with as much facility as if they were only small craft. Between these islands is discovered the beautiful and rich abbey of Clairmarets, of the order of Citeaux.

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### BETHUNE.

THIS city ranks the third amongst those of the county of Artois: it is situate on the rivulet Labiette, which, swelled by several currents, empties itself by



two mouths into the Lis, which separates Artois from Flanders. Aire is distant three leagues, Lisle and Douay, six; Arras and St. Omer, eight.

Bethune is on a rock, which circumstance, added to its fortifications, which are regular, renders it very strong: it has four gates, a deep canal, on which boats are navigated, five bastions, and several old round towers on the ramparts, together with a double covert-way on the sides, which do not admit of being inundated. Its castle, which was of a triangular form, was very old: it was demolished in 1578, by the prince of Orange. Robert I. lord of Bethune, built a collegiate church in 999, in honor of St. Bartholomew.

This place was taken by Gaston, duke of Orleans, uncle to Lewis the XIVth, the 29th of August, 1645, and it was confirmed to that monarch by the peace of the Pyrennees. Marshal Vauban augmented the fortifications, erected several handsome barracks, and rendered Bethune a regular, strong, and important place.

On the 15th of July, 1710, after the fall of Douay, this city was invested by prince Eugene, and the duke of Marlborough, commanding the allied armies, consisting of twenty-six battalions, and eighteen squadrons, while these two generals, at the head of one of observation, amused that of the French under marshal

marshal Villars. The trenches were opened on the 24th, and on the 3d of August the attack began. The garrison, composed of nine battalions, four squadrons, a detachment of cannoneers and bombardeers, with Monsieur du Pay-Vauban (nephew to the marshal) at their head, sustained a siege of six weeks, when, finding all further resistance unnecessary, they capitulated the 28th of August, on condition that they should be allowed to march out on the 31st with all the honors of war, in order to be conducted to St. Omer. The 29th of May, 1713, it was restored to the French, its former masters.

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### AIRE.

CHARLES the Vth. having demolished, in 1553, the city of Terouane, distant from Aire only two leagues, this city was much benefited by it. Its situation is on the Lis, which separates into two parts, between marshes which render it almost inaccessible. This city is of the diocess of St. Omer, from which place it is three leagues, and with which it has a communication, by means of a canal which enters the Lis, as do also the rivulets of Sernoï, Madicq, and Cacquette :---the two first furnish the ditches of Aire with water, and the third runs through the town. It is by this canal, called the *Nouveau Fosse* (the new ditch) that all the merchandize that comes from Dunkirk is transported to this and the adjoining cities.

Aire



Arras, in Latin, is called *Maria*, or *Maria*; it is fortified with eight bastions, and has three gates, viz. Arras, St. Omer, and Notre Dame. The fort of St. Francis, which has five bastions, covers the town on the Flanders side, and contributes greatly to its defence, as well as the castle: each has its commander. The principal church (both a parish and collegiate one) is dedicated to St. Peter.

Anthony de Buc, second ranger of Flanders, built it, and Boudoin, of Lisle, count of Flanders, founded fourteen prebends in 1064. In 1186, Philip of Alsace augmented the chapter. The church, one of the finest in the country, was intirely ruined by the siege of 1710, and its charming tower, which being injured in several places, fell 1713, owing to the indiscretion of the magistrates, who ordered all the bells to be rung at once, on the day that the place was delivered to the French king. There is also the parish-church of Notre Dame.

Lewis the XIth. obtained it in 1482, owing to the treachery of Cohen, its governor; but Max, of Austria, sovereign of the Low Countries, had it returned by the treaty of Arras.

Charles de la Porte again besieged it the 19th of May, 1641, and took it after much resistance on the part of the garrison, which consisted of Spaniards, Italians, and Walloons, to the number of 3000; but  
not

not until every foot of ground without had been disputed by the two armies. The besieged, having bravely defended themselves during two months, obtained, the 26th of July, an honorable capitulation.

The Spaniards availing themselves of the disorders which subsisted among the French, who were about to lose a battle with the duke of Bouillon, and count Soissons, near Sedan, gave them no time to fortify Aire, nor repair the breaches, for they retook it the 7th of December following, under John, baron of Beck, who from a messenger became general of the Spanish army, and governor of Luxemburg.

Marshal Humiers attacked it 1676, when the prince of Orange besieged Mæstricht. On the 24th of July, the trenches were opened before fort St. Francis, which was abandoned by the Spaniards on the following day, and the city was beset with such fury, that it was compelled to capitulate on the last day of the month, after twenty days siege, and five from the opening of the trenches.

The French having again acquired it, put it into such a state of defence as to render it, in point of strength, inferior to no place of their conquered country: however, they lost it again in 1710, to prince Eugene and the duke of Marlborough; the marquis of Goisbriant, lieutenant-general of the French, and commander in the city of twenty battalions, being  
for



for want of ammunition forced to comply. It was stipulated in the capitulation, that the garrison should go out with all the honors of war, the 9th of November, and be conducted to Arras. Fort St. Francis surrendered in the mean time; but the treaty of Utrecht restored them again to the house of Bourbon, the 1st of June, 1713.

The bailiwick of Aire contains sixteen villages and hamlets.

### LENS.

**I**S situated on the boundaries of Artois and Flanders, on the Laviette, four leagues from Arras and Douay, and six from Lille. It contains two churches, Notre Dame and St. Vulgan: the tower of the latter, which is not destitute of beauty, was finished in 1705. There is also another parish, called St. Leger.

This place has been frequently taken and retaken in former days, since which its works have been demolished.

The bailiwick of Lens contains 132 villages and hamlets.

**BAPAUME.**

**T**HE privileges of a city were granted to this place about the year 1335, when it was furrounded with walls. Though small, it is nevertheless very strong, as well by nature as by art; it is situated on the frontiers of Piccardy, between Arras and Peronne, five leagues from each. The ditches are dry, and it is very difficult to besiege it, there being no river nor water of consequence within four leagues. The inhabitants suffered long, and greatly for want of this necessary article, that of their cisterns being very bad, and their wells, many of them at a depth of more than 140 feet; but Mr. Feulon, engineer of the place, having dug 15 feet deep, at about half a league from the town, luckily found two large basons and a fine spring, before unknown. This son of fortune also invented the means of conveying it to the grand place, where the magistracy erected a fountain, which served as a pedestal to a statue of Lewis XV. set up the 19th of April, 1723, but was demolished by the Jacobins in 1792.

Bapaume has only two gates, but it has a castle with a large square pavilion, with very strong and high bastions. The town-house is supported by several pillars of blue stone, under which is a good guard-house for the military: its tower has many admirers.

Marshal



Marshal Meilleraye took this place from the Spaniards on the 18th of September, 1641. After the capitulation, a French officer, of the name of St. Pruil, had the rashness to fire on the garrison as it was marching out, for which step he lost his head.

Since that period it has remained the property of the French, who have considerably enlarged the fortifications.

The bailiwick contains sixty-four villages and hamlets, and there are two famous abbeys in the environs, both of the order of St. Augustin.

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### HEDIN.

THE site of the old Hedin is a league distant from that of the present. In 1477 it was taken and burnt by Lewis the XIth. of France. In 1521 it met with the same fate, as also in 1537, at the time of Francis I. but Philibert Emmanuel, duke of Savoy, general to Charles the Vth. retook it and its castle the 28th of July, 1553, and destroyed them entirely. This prince re-built the city, with a fort, the year following, on a spot called LE MESNIL, and gave it the name of HEDINFERT, in allusion to the four letters, F. E. R. T. *Fortitudo ejus rhodum tenuit*; the ancient motto of the Dukes of Savoy.

This place is in the diocese of St. Omer, near the frontiers of Piccardy, eight leagues from Abbville, and four from Montreuil and St. Paul: it is called in Latin *Hedinium*.

Hedin is in part surrounded by a marsh, which renders it almost inaccessible; the river Canche divides it into two parts, and it cannot be well reduced, unless attacked by two armies at once, as one side can hold out though the other fall. It is a regular hexagon, with a good ditch and counterescarp, with half-moons, which cover the troops on that side not defended by the marshes.

This city has only two gates, Bourg and Montreuil, the principal church is dedicated to St. Martin. The French became masters of it in 1639, under Charles de la Porte, marquis of Meilleraye, who received on the breach a marshal's staff, sent him by Lewis the XIII.

The bailiwick of Hedin contains 124 villages and hamlets, in which are seen many fine abbeyes; particularly that of Cercamp, of the order of Cîteaux, the church of which was once very magnificent, but has now only the body standing. There are other religious seminaries, viz. the abbey of Blangy, that of Auchy-les-Moines, of the order of St. Benedict, that of Dommartin, formerly St. Josse-au-Bois, of the order of Premontré, and that of St. Andre-au-Bois, of the same.

St. VENANT.



## SAINT VENANT.

**I**S situated on the Lis, two leagues from Aire, and bears the title of county; its principal defence is in its inundations, which form the fivulets Robecq and Garbecq: it has only one church, and that dedicated to St. Venant.

This place was made a county by the Spanish king, the 17th of December, 1655, in favor of Licres, governor of St. Omer. In 1659, it was yielded to France, by the treaty of the Pyrennees, when its fortifications were demolished.

The siege which this city sustained in 1710 has rendered it famous in history. The French had raised fresh works round it, and supplied it with a good garrison, when prince Eugene, and the duke of Marlborough invested it on the 5th of September, after the surrender of Bethune. The prince of Orange directed the siege, and the chevalier de Selve, with six battalions, defended the town. On the 16th the trenches were opened; but the scarcity of provisions and ammunition produced a capitulation on the 29th of the same month. St. Venant was however restored to France in 1773, by the treaty of Utrecht.

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## *LILLERS.*

**STANDS** between Aire and Bethune, about two leagues from each: formerly it was well fortified, but its works have long since been demolished, and it may now be considered as a place of no strength. It is a bailiwick, on which sixty villages depend, the sovereignty of which was made over to France in 1659, by the peace of the Pyrennees.

In the environs of this city are two abbeys, one at Ham, and the other at Chocques: the first is of the order of St. Benedict, and the second, for regular CHANOINES, of that of St. Augustin.

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## *SAINT PAUL.*

**IS** called *FANUM St. PAULI*, or *PAULOPOLIS*, is four leagues from St. Omer, eight from Arras, and is in Artois.

The country of St. Paul bears the title of *SENO-CHAUSSE'E*, and its jurisdiction extends over 282 villages and hamlets.

*DUNKIRK.*



**DUNKIRK.**

**DUNKIRK** signifies, in the Flemish language, *Church of the Downs*. This place is situated in the middle of the Downs, which bordered on the maritime part of Flanders. It was first inhabited by fishermen, who, to be near the haven, erected the first dwellings, which were mere huts; from thence it became a hamlet, and by degrees a sea-port of consequence.

Boudoin the younger, count of Flanders, surrounded that place with walls, about the year 960, and the count Philip, of Alsace, attracted to it a number of inhabitants from other parts, by the privileges he held out for that purpose.

Dunkirk, for the latter centuries, has frequently been contested by various powers. The English burnt it in 1388, and in the year 1558 it was surprised by the French, under Paul de la Barthe, but re-taken in 1583, by the Spaniards, commanded by the prince of Parme, who obliged the governor, established by the duke of Alençon, to leave the town without arms or baggage. The French became masters of it again in 1646, under the duke of Enghien, assisted on the sea-side by Van Tromp, the celebrated Dutch admiral. The marquis of Lede, with a garrison of 3000 men, were obliged to

surrender on the 7th of October, fourteen days after the opening of the trenches.

In 1652 it was again reduced, by order of the arch-duke Leopold, after a siege of eighteen days, directed by the count of *Estrades*.\* Six years after the marshal Turenne besieged it by land, and the English by sea. After the trenches had been open eighteen days, Don Juan, of Austria, accompanied by the prince of Condé and marshal Hocquincourt, at the head of 20,000 men, went to relieve it. The battle was very obstinate and bloody, but the Spaniards having lost the greatest part of their infantry, and several pieces of cannon, were at length obliged to give way. Among the slain was marshal Hocquincourt.

This victory was followed by the taking of Dunkirk, which surrendered the 25th of June, 1658. After the death of marshal de Lede, who was killed, this city was delivered over by the French to the English, by virtue of a treaty made between the court of the former and Oliver Cromwell; but Charles II. when he came to the throne, sold it to them for the sum of 500,000 florins.

Lewis the XIVth. having thus secured to himself the possession of this city, soon rendered it one of the

\* This was the same person who negotiated the sale of Dunkirk to the king of England; he was styled governor of the place, and viceroy of America.



strongest in all Europe, and a sea-port inferior to none: that sovereign expended vast sums in enlarging the town, and adding to its fortifications, which contained seventeen bastions, thirteen half-moons, and a strong and very regularly built citadel.

Dunkirk is divided into the old and new town; the former is situated next the sea-side, is surrounded with several large walls, flanked with large towers, supported by a good rampart, and fortified by a ditch, made principally of brick, 120 feet wide, and always full of water, supplied from the river Colme. On the side of Mardick the sea advances into the land, forming a small gulph, which stretches along the walls of the old town, and forms also a port capable of containing 200 ships: the entrance, however, is narrow and dangerous, on account of the sand-banks near it, the principal of which, of 600 *toises*, was cut in 1671.

On each side of the port was erected a causeway, which advanced five or six hundred paces into the sea. In order to complete these grand piers, or cones, with the more speed, 30,000 workmen were engaged with the pick-axe, shovel, and axe; whole forests were cut down, and their wood and innumerable quantities of large stones and earth were employed in their construction. Each of these causeways was furnished with a wooden fort, planted with cannon, erected on vessels filled with stones, and sunk to the bottom: one of which was named the Green Castle, the other the Castle of Good Hope,

Near

Near these piers were two grand forts of stone, built in the sea, the most considerable of which was the FORT DU RISBANC, distant from the citadel 800 yards, and was joined to the pier by a wooden bridge: its walls were 80 feet thick, and it had accommodations for a garrison of 6000 men. In the centre of this huge building was a Place of arms, of an oval form, and sufficiently large for all the soldiers to be reviewed on it. A large reservoir for the rain water, erected for the military, in case of necessity, was another thing much remarked; nor did the barracks less attract the notice of the observer. On the platform was a great number of cannon and mortars, placed there to annoy the enemy's shipping. This risbanc was finished in 1683, and in 1701, a new one was formed near the town, but of less strength.

The new city joins to fort Lewis, and with it forms the port, surrounding, in part, the old one, and is fortified with twelve bastions, a ditch full of water, and a counterscarp; and two hornworks occupied the spot between the latter and the causeway, which faced the sea.

The emperor Charles the Vth. built a citadel near this place in 1535, which was afterwards much beautified and improved by Vauban. There are three canals, which proceed from Dunkirk towards the south, and enable the inhabitants to transport in their boats (called *Bylanders*), the goods which they vend amongst the neighbouring towns. These canals serve, beside,



beside, to cleanse the city, and inundate the fields about it, in proportion as the sluices are raised or lowered. The first goes to *Berg St. Vinoux*, the second to *Hondschote*, and the third to *Furnes, Nieuport*, and from thence to *Bruges, Ghent, &c.*

The parish-church of *St. Eloy* has a handsome high tower, from whence may be seen the heights of *Dover*, and the English coast.

The buildings most remarkable are, the *Town-house*, *Dockyard*, *Guard-house*, and the warehouses, the cellars of which are always well stored with arms and provisions, as well for the garrison as for the vessels.

The 11th of August, 1694, the allies sent a fleet, commanded by *St. Cloudsly Shovel*, with orders to bombard *Dunkirk*, but he withdrew himself from before it, without effecting any great things, after having thrown into the town and forts 1200 bombs.

*Lewis the XIVth.* having consented, in 1712, to give up this city to queen *Anne*, he put the English into possession of it; and on the 19th of July, of that year, general *Hill* entered it with 5000 men, in the name of his mistress; the count *Lemont* and the French garrison quitting it at the same time, having previously resigned all its keys to the British general, who, on his entry, hoisted his sovereign's colours.

Peace having been concluded at Utrecht, in 1713, with the English, one of the conditions was, that *the fortifications, forts, citadel, rissans, and piers* of Dunkirk, should be demolished. Those matchless works, the wonders of the world, and *chef-d'œuvre* of the great Vauban, were, in consequence, in part destroyed by gunpowder---works which had so often attracted, and at all seasons of the year, crowds of strangers from every part to gaze on and admire them. As soon as this article of the treaty was complied with (which took place at the close of 1713) the English returned home.

In August, 1793, the British and Hanoverians, under the command of his royal highness the duke of York, invested this city. The latter, headed by marshal Freitag, were detached from the main army, and took post along the Yser, as a corps of observation, in order to prevent the enemy, strongly encamped at Mount Cassel, &c. from succouring the garrison. The duke, with the besieging army, immediately opened the intrenchments, and was preparing for a vigorous attack, when the French, finding that Dunkirk would fall in a few days, if not relieved, collected their whole force in and near that quarter, amounting to 80,000 men, under Houchard, which they effected by seizing all the cattle and carriages, of every denomination, for the purpose of transporting their troops with the more speed to the place of action. This being completed, they attacked with the greatest fury, *en masse* (in a mass) every post on the Yser, and after a contest which



which cost them 6000 men, the marshal made a retrograde motion towards the duke.

On the following day, September the 7th, the garrison, in conjunction with Houchard, made a sally from the town, when, after a resistance on the part of the English, which will ever redound to their honor, on account of the great inferiority of their numbers, they effected their retreat with a trifling loss.

The French were more indebted for their success on this day to accident than any thing else, for two gun-boats were, at high water, brought too on the duke's flank, which, favored by a strong S. W. wind, greatly impeded the progress of the workmen in the intrenchments, and indeed that of the whole army.

In the evening his Highness issued orders for the destruction of all the works, magazines, &c. as also for the transportation, by the river, to Furnes, of every thing which could be removed with propriety and safety, leaving behind a few pieces of iron ordnance, mounted on ship-carriages, some balls, shells, &c. &c. the whole but of little value.

Thus the siege of Dunkirk was raised, and on the 13th the duke marched back to Hainault. Houchard, the French general, was impeached for having lost, in killed and wounded, 7200 men, though he saved the city: he afterwards suffered by the *guillotine*.

**BERG SAINT VINOX,**

**I**S situated on the Colme, two leagues from Dunkirk, and seven from Ypres: the air from its marshes is pernicious to strangers. Boudoin, third count of Flanders, much enlarged this city about the year 950, and surrounded it with walls: the fourth count of that name added a castle in 1029, which served as a place of residence for some of his successors.

Berg-Saint-Vinox was one of the last cities of Flanders which held out for the Protestant party, in the religious war. Prince Parme, who besieged it in 1583, was so roughly handled by the garrison, that he was compelled to change the siege to a blockade: this manoeuvre, however proved successful, for Mons. Villeneuve, the commandant for the States, with his French regiment, surrendered the place upon honorable terms.

In 1658, the French took it again, and it was confirmed to them, together with its lordship, by the peace of the Pyrennees; since that period it has received many important additions, such as fortifications, and an improvement by which the besieged can lay the country under water, to a great extent.

The Colme, which runs by, and almost surrounds the city, serves as a canal to Hondschote, St. Omer,  
and



and Gravelines. There is also a canal which leads to Dunkirk, near which are two forts built by the French, one called Fort Lewis, the other Fort Francis. The first was given up to the English in 1712, with the latter city, and was afterwards in part demolished, but has since received such improvements as to render it a place of great consequence, at least a key to it.

The lordship of Berg contains thirty-three boroughs and villages, which are famed for the excellent cheese and butter sold throughout all Flanders.

### **CASSEL.**

**W**HICH is six leagues from Ypres, four from St. Omer and Berg St. Vinox, is situated on a high mountain, from whence may be seen 30 cities, and more than 400 villages: and it is for this reason that many give to this place the name of Mount CASSEL. It has five gates, viz. West Gate, Berg Saint Vinox's Gate, St. Omer's Gate, Aire Gate, and Ypres's Gate.

This city has often been pillaged and burnt, as well by accident as by the misfortunes of war; but principally in 1632, 1655, and 1672, when the French ruined its ancient castle, as well as its beautiful tower, which

which was so high that it served as a lighthouse to ships at sea.

Philip Augustus, King of France, took this place in 1214, and Philip Valois plundered it in 1324, as a punishment to the inhabitants for having revolted against Nevers, count of Flanders, and for the sneer cast at that monarch in the following couplet, inscribed under a cock provided for the occasion:

*"Quand ce coq chante aura,*

*Le roi Cassel conquerra."*

Whenever this cock begins to crow,  
Cassel to the king its head shall bow.

They were, however, mistaken, for this prince defeated the rebels (who left 19,000 dead on the field of battle) took the city by assault, set it on fire, and put every one to the sword.

Cassel has been in the possession of France ever since the year 1676, to which it was given, with its lordship, which extends over 50 boroughs and villages, by the treaty of Nimeguen, concluded in 1678. Mount Cassel is of so much consequence from its commanding height, that it has acquired the name of the Gibraltar rock of West Flanders, and indeed not without some reason. The French, knowing its advantages, have always had a very considerable encampment on and near it. The country, at the foot  
of



of the mountain, is quite a Newmarket plain, where cavalry may act in any number; and it is for this reason that the enemy have fortified it with infinite pains and labour.

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### BOURBOURG.

**I**S also on the Colme, one league from Gravelines, and three from Dunkirk, with which it communicates by a canal. Count Boudoin, the Bald, surrounded it with ditches, about 900.

The French and English have often attacked this place, and particularly in 1383, when the latter rendered themselves masters of it. It was afterwards restored to the former, who, in order to punish it for having rebelled against Lewis, laid it waste by fire and sword. The duke of Orleans re-took it for the French in 1645; and at the conclusion of the peace of the Pyrennees its works were demolished. Within its lordship are ten handsome villages.

**GRAVELINES.**

**T**HIS city, called in Flemish GREVELINGHE, is situated on the sea-side, at the mouth of the river Aa, and the land about it is cut by canals, which render the access to it rather difficult, one of which goes to Dunkirk by Bourbourg, the other to Berg St. Vinox. In forming these canals, and making their sluices, several thousand French troops were employed in 1738; and it is but justice to say, that they were completed in a style which will ever do them credit.

Gravelines, though by no means large, is of the first importance, on account of the strength of its works, which consist of five stone bastions, four half-moons, and a hornwork.

Thierry, of Alsace, count of Flanders, built it in 1160:---in 1384 it was ruined by the English; but in 1405 every thing was re-established and repaired.

Fort Philip, which is below the town, defends the entrance; but neither this, nor Forts Sluice and Hennuin, could prevent Gaston, duke of Orleans, from subduing it, who opened his trenches on the 12th of June, and on the 30th of July it surrendered.

The arch-duke Leopold retook it in a few days, in 1652, owing to the insufficiency of the garrison:  
and



and on the 30th of August, 1658, marshal de Ferté carried it, after a siege of twenty-three days. Since that time it has remained annexed to France, by virtue of the truce of the Pyrennees, concluded in the following year; and the chevalier de Ville and Vauban, have made additions to its works, which by no means disgrace them.

This city, which is between Calais and Dunkirk, (three leagues from each) reaps a great advantage from its proximity to the sea, and its situation on the Aa, which is there so deep as to admit of the largest vessels; but the roads in the environs of the town are very bad, from the quantity of the sand drifted up.

**LISLE.**

**I**S the capital city of French Flanders, in which there are 193 boroughs and villages, and of which this is the richest, the most magnificent, and the best peopled, of any of the catholic low countries. It was formerly furrounded with marshes, which the industry of the inhabitants has drained. The river Deule runs through the city, waters its ditches, and forms several canals, which serve for the transportation of merchandize. Lisle is three leagues from Menin; five from Ypres, Courtray, and Tournay; seven from Douay, ten from Arras, twelve from

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Cambray,

Cambray, and thirteen from Ghent, and has, like most other cities, a communication with the neighbouring towns, by means of paved roads. On the 12th of September, 1645, the French attacked it, but were obliged to retire. In 1667, Lewis the XIVth. besieged it in person, at a time when the count of Brouay, son of the great general Ambrose, marquis of Spinola, commanded the garrison, which, as it only consisted of 1,000 men, totally undisciplined, it was compelled to yield, the 28th of August, after nine days attack. Since that period, the old town has been much damaged, and a new one built, fortified with a citadel, of five bastions and a fort, called the *Fort-du-Sauveur*. The new town was begun in 1669, under marshal Vauban, the greatest engineer of his day. Lisle has seven gates, viz. 1, that of Barre; 2, that of Notre-Drame; 3, that of the Sick; 4, that of Fives; 5, St. Maurice's; 6, Magdalen's; and 7, St. Andrew's; independent of that of Secour's, at the citadel, the parade of which is planted with a variety of trees, forming a promenade very agreeable.

The principal church is dedicated to St. Peter, and has a chapter of 100 persons. Two chapters of the order of the Golden Fleece have been holden in this city, one in 1431, and the other in 1436. The other parishes are, St. Edward, in the heart of the town; St. Maurice, St. Saviour, St. Catharine, St. Andrew, and Magdalen; the two last were formed when the place was enlarged, and the church of the latter was re-built in form of a dome, anno 1712.



The streets, particularly those of the new town, are very handsome, straight, and ornamented with several fine palaces, and other edifices. Between the two grand places, or parades, is a superb house, built in 1664, and called *La Bourse* (the Exchange) where the merchants meet every day at noon, and transact their affairs. And not far from it is the town-house, formerly the palace of the dukes of Bourgogne.

This city has remained in the possession of the French, by the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, of 1668.

The marshal of Boufflers was governor of the town and citadel, as also of the province, when the allied troops, under the command of the prince Eugene, and the duke of Marlborough, invested Lille, the 13th of August, 1708, and opened the trenches on the 22d and 23d. A finer and better equipped army than this was never seen, amongst whose officers were forty sovereign princes. The marshal, with the lieutenants-general Surville and Lee, and Mr. Fresliere, defended it valiantly, during the space of sixty-two days; but the allies took the town by capitulation, the 23d of October, Boufflers having retired with 5000 of his troops to the citadel. On the 29th hostilities were re-commenced on both sides, when this brave officer, finding, after having been shut up nearly five weeks, with his men, that there was no prospect of being relieved, a parley was beaten the 8th of December, and two days after the garrison marched out with six pieces of cannon, two mortars,

and all the honors of war, to the inexpressible joy of the surrounding army, who felt more pleasure in embracing a noble enemy, than in being driven to the painful necessity of depriving them of that life which they had so gallantly defended.

By the treaty of Utrecht, of 1713, Lisle was restored to France, whose king took possession of it on the 4th of June, of that year.

The Austrians undertook, with 18,000 men, to bombard this place, in September, 1792, the main of the French republican army being at that time in Champagne.

The emperor's soldiers soon became masters of the suburb of Fives; but fresh troops arriving to the assistance of the garrison, the allies were at length compelled to abandon their enterprise, having first greatly damaged the city, and destroyed many of its inhabitants, &c.

The lordship of Lisle is about nine leagues long, and as many broad, which makes in the round about 28. It is divided into nine parts, viz. Melantois, Casembault, Wespers, Ferrain, Perselle, outre l'Escaut, Comté, Gouvernance de Douay, and the county of Lalloüe.

The territory of Lisle is bordered on the east by Tournaïsis, on the south and west by Artois, and on the north by Flemish Flanders. Its rivers are, the Lis, Scarp, Deule, Higher and Lower, and the  
Marque :



Marque: the three first are navigable. This territory is divided into two parts, and the idea of this division originated from the fertility of the soil. The part on the side of Artois, and in which are Carembault, Melantois, Perfelle, and the Gouvernance of Douay, is a country which, though dry, produces good corn, and in abundance; and that which borders on Flanders, and which comprehends Wespers, Ferrain, and Lalloüe, is so good and fertile, that the earth there may be said to be never at rest. In these beautiful parts, are four celebrated abbeys, namely, Loz, Marquette, Cisoing, and Phalempin. The inhabitants are remarked for their industry, politeness, and hospitality, and their theatre is the admiration of every stranger.

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### DOUAR.

THE form of this place is oval, and its situation on the Scarp, five leagues from Arras and Cambray, seven from Lille and Valenciennes, and eight from Tournay. It has six gates, which are those of Morel, Ocre, (now shut) Esquerchin, St. Eloi, Notre-Dame, and Arras; the last of which is in Artois, and extends to about twenty paces within Douay.

This city formerly belonged to Hainault, from which it was separated in 1072, and added to the county of Flanders; it has a celebrated university on the

the same footing as that of Louvin. The two principal churches are those of St. Anne and St. Peter, both collegiate; and beside these (which also belong to parishes) there are St. James's, St. Nicholas, St. Aubin, and Notre-Dame, the most ancient church of the city. The town-house is an antique building, is adorned with statues of the old counts of Flanders, and a tower. When the Spaniards were masters of Douay, it had a fort about a quarter of a league distant from the town; but it was of so bad a construction, that it was considered as a place of little or no consequence; it stood at the mouth of the canal of Lisle, and near the Scarp, from which it took its name. The French have since converted it into a regular pentagon, and have surrounded it with ditches, half-moons, &c. These works, which were commenced in 1670, and finished in two years after, now serve to defend the sluices, by which Douay may be inundated.

Lewis the XIVth. besieged Douay in person, and took it on the 8th of July, 1667, five days after the opening of the trenches, when baron Ostige, the governor, with a garrison of only 400 men, marched out. By the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, of 1668, this city was restored to that monarch, who caused to be erected there an arsenal, to serve for all the conquered countries; a foundry, the first in the world, for cannon and mortars; and a military academy, where the mathematics and the art of fortification are taught, and where the students learn to fire cannon and throw bombs, upon such a principle as to astonish the  
writer



writer of this article, who (he flatters himself) possesses some knowledge of military science.

In 1710, the allied army having been beforehand with the French in taking the field, went to attack, on the 21st of April, the lines made by the latter, on the side of the canal, leading from Douay to Lille, when, finding them abandoned, they invested this city two days after.

On the 4th of May the trenches were opened, and two attacks took place, one under the orders of the prince of Orange, and the other by a party commanded by the prince of Anhalt. Pomereul was at this time governor of the place, and the king of France sent Albergotti, lieutenant-general, to take upon him the command of the garrison, and the defence of the town, &c. which made such a vigorous resistance, that the enemy was not able to obtain possession until the 25th of June, after fifty-two days attack with open trenches. The garrison, which consisted of 8000 at the beginning of the siege, was reduced to the number of 5900, who marched out on the 29th, with all the honors of war, and were conducted to Cambray, as were also that of Scarp Fort, which place surrendered at almost the approach of the enemy's advanced guard.

In 1712, marshal Villars, at the head of a French army, having seized on the posts of Denain, Marchiennes, St. Amand, &c. and having obliged the prince Eugene to abandon the siege of Landrecies,  
formed

formed that of Douay, which was attacked the 1st of August, in three different places, one by Albergotti, against Scarp Fort; and the city, by two divisions, under Mons. Groesbriant, and count Broglio, lieutenant-general.

On the 14th of August the trenches were opened, and the bombardment of the city and fort began on the 18th; the latter surrendered on the 27th, and the garrison were made prisoners of war; but the former held out till the 8th of September, when lieutenant-general Hompesch, the commander, was also made prisoner, together with 4000 men, who composed his garrison.

Since Douay has returned to France, it has been considerably embellished, by the erection of a variety of new houses, which were built here on account of the parliament established by Lewis the XIVth. first at Tournay, in 1709, which, at the taking of that city, was removed to Cambray; but in 1713 was placed here.

It is not without reason that Douay and its bailiwick are styled the granary of the whole country, for the environs of this city are so fertile in corn, that they usually grow a sufficiency for the consumption of the neighbouring provinces.

This bailiwick has within its limits the small city of Orchies, beside 25 boroughs and villages, most of which are watered by the Scarp.

The



The abbeyes of Marchiennes, Anchin, Hennin, and Flines, enjoy the like advantages; as do also several priories.

From the proximity of this city to Valenciennes and Condé, and its importance, it will, in all probability, be attacked by the allies in the campaign of this present year, 1794, and perhaps meet the fate of those places.

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### *SAINT AMAND.*

**I**S a small but very pretty city, on the Scarp, in Tournaisis, two leagues from Valenciennes, and three from Tournay: formerly it was surrounded with walls, but the gates are now almost the only part standing: its parish-church is dedicated to St. Martin.

The waters of St. Amand are famous for their virtues, and attract in their seasons sick people from all quarters.

The church of the abbey of St. Amand, built after the modern style, is very spacious and magnificent; its length is 460 feet, and its breadth 78; and that part which makes it a cross (in the form of which it is built) is 260 long by 80: it is a double church, and the religious people, in order to keep themselves out of the sight of the public, have their choir in the upper, leaving the under one to the laymen.

men. The whole of the building has more the appearance of a royal palace than a monastery—the expence of erecting it amounted to more than 3,000,000 florins.

The allies having rendered themselves masters of Tournay, St. Amand fell also into their hands; but the French re-took it twice, the first time by assault, in 1711, and also the year after, when they made 800 prisoners, and took six pieces of cannon, after two days attack. By the peace of Utrecht, of 1713, it was left in their possession.

The city of St. Amand, taken and re-taken by the Austrians and French, in 1792 and 1793, has suffered much by the latter, who pillaged by far the greatest part of it, and were, beside, guilty of other excesses, particularly towards the females.

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### ARMENTIERES.

IS situated three leagues from Ypres, Bailleuil, and Lisle, and four from Basseé. The Lis, which runs through the town, forms there a small port, where craft stop to load and unload their cargos, which consist chiefly of bricks, burnt in the neighbourhood, in very large quantities.

In 1329 this place was surrounded by walls; and in 1509 the inhabitants obtained permission to enlarge it, which, however, was not effected till 1580.

The



The wars between the French and Flemish have many a time laid it waste, particularly in the years 1339 and 1382.

The archduke Leopold, governor of the country, having taken it, in 1647, from the French, the latter re-took it, and, by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, concluded in 1668, they were acknowledged its masters.

Between Armentieres and Estaires, is the country called **LA LOUVE**, very fertile in corn, flax, and other valuable productions: it contains four large villages.

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### ORCHIES.

**T**HIS city is very small, situate on a little hill, three leagues from Douay, and five from Lille:---it is within the jurisdiction of Douay, enjoys the same privileges as that city; has but one parish-church, and that dedicated to Notre-Dame.

This place suffered much in 1793, having been taken and re-taken several times by the French and allied armies, and is now one of the posts occupied by the Duke of York's army. The mayor of the town, for his treachery to the combined powers, met with his deserved fate.

**COMINES.**

**T**HIS is also a small city on the *Lis*, almost in the mid-way between *Lisle* and *Ypres*, from which places it is distant three leagues, and two from *Menin*. The river divides it into two parts, one of which is in the lordship of *Ypres*, the other in that of *Lisle*.

*Comines* was formerly of greater importance than at present; but this was before its fortifications were demolished.

**LA BASSEE'.**

**T**HE many sieges which this city sustained during a variety of former wars, have reduced it to one of very inferior consequence.

*La Bassée* was once fortified with bastions, and was considered as a strong and regular place, but now that its works are demolished, it may be looked upon as an open and defenceless city. It is situated partly in *Artois*, and partly in the territory of *Lisle*, from which it is distant four leagues, and six from *Arras*.



**TOURCOING.**

**BETWEEN** Lannoy and Menin is Tourcoing, a large borough town, rich and flourishing, and such is its commerce, that it is of more importance than many cities. It contains 12000 inhabitants, whose manufacture of stuffs has long been celebrated, and who speak a language or gibberish peculiar to themselves.

This place was three times burnt, viz. in 1477, 1613 and 1711. The Dutch, and other of the allied troops, having driven the French from Tourcoing, in June 1793, entered the town, when some of the inhabitants fired on them, and in the night massacred others in their lodgings: a circumstance which so much exasperated the commanding officer, that he would have reduced the place to ashes, had not its own people resigned up the most culpable to his just vengeance.

**VALENCIENNES.**

**NATURE** and art have wonderfully conspired to render this one of the strongest places of the country. It is in Hainault, in an agreeable valley on the Escaut (or Scheldt) which separates it into two parts, and where that river receives the rivulet Ronelle. It is

two

two leagues from Condé, three from Quesnoy, about seven from Cambray, Mons, Tournay, and Douay, and five from Maubeuge.

Notre-Dame, the principal church, is of gothic architecture, and is by no means undeserving the attention of the traveller.

The parishes are Notre-Dame the Great, St. Nicholas, St. James (of the diocese of Arras) Notre-Dame of the Causeway, St. Gery, St. Gilles, and that of St. Vaast, which was demolished at the building of the citadel, but re-established soon after. The church of St. Peter joins the town-house and the chapel of the magistrates.

The town-house is truly magnificent; its front is of exquisite architecture, built of freestone, and adorned with columns, figures, and beautiful windows, ornamented in *basso relievo*.

The *Halle* is also a grand building, has an excellent view, and serves also as an ornament to a large and handsome place.

Valenciennes has been the birth-place of three emperors, viz. of Boudoin, count of Flanders and Hainault, since emperor of Constantinople; he was born in 1171, and was killed by the Bulgarians, in 1206---of Henry, brother and successor to Boudoin, in the empire of Constantinople, born 1176, and died 1216---and of Henry, count of Luxembourg, after-



afterwards emperor, the VIIth of that name, who was born in 1262, and died in 1313.

The French, headed by Turenne and La Ferté, laid siege to this city in 1656, at which time count Hainin was governor. Don Juan, of Austria, marched to relieve it, and, with the prince of Condé, obliged the enemy to raise the siege. Three furious assaults were made on the French intrenchments, which were at length carried: 4,000 men were killed and drowned in the Escaut, and marshal Ferté was made prisoner. The brave Hans Verkeft, who, from low extraction, became by his valour and ability, general of the Spanish cavalry, was also among the slain.

On the 1st of March, 1677, Lewis the XIVth. besieged it in person, and re-took it on the 17th, nine days after the opening of the trenches. In an assault made by the French on one of the hornworks, it was carried: this done, they soon gained a half-moon, and then mixing with the besieged, seized the ramparts and cannon.

Many persons have imagined that this success of the French was effected by money, but time has shewn, that the cowardice of the guard of the half-moon was the sole cause. The marquis Risbourg, brother to Prince Epinoy, commanded the garrison, consisting of 3000 men, who were forced to surrender at discretion.

Lewis prevented his soldiers from pillaging the inhabitants, and only compelled them to defray the expences attending the construction of a citadel and other strong works, carried on under the direction of Vauban.

Valenciennes was confirmed to the French by the peace of Nimeguen, of 1678, and is, and has been considered as a place of great strength.

LA PREVOTE' LE COMTE' DE VALENCIENNES is a small country between Hainault, Ostrevant, and Tournois, extending along both sides of the Escaut, from the village of Triche almost to Condé: its length is four leagues, and its breadth two. On this *prévôté* are several beautiful and rich abbeys.

Vicogne, of the order of Premonstratenses, is half a league from the city, and the church is much admired for its grandeur, architecture, pews, and lobby: the part occupied by the abbot, as well as those set apart for the *religieux*, are also of the first magnificence.

The abbey of St. Sauve is near the city; that of Fontenelle, of the order of *Citeaux*, is on the Escaut, as well as that of the DAMES CHANOINESSES of Denain; the latter of which is distant from Valenciennes one league and a half, and two from Bouchain.

This city was besieged by the allies, commanded by his royal highness Frederick, duke of York, second son to the king of England, who, on the 23d of May,



May, 1793, completely defeated the French, intrenched on Mount St. Michael, on the heights of Farnars, &c. and threw them into the utmost confusion.

In consequence of this advantage, the duke was enabled to form an immediate and regular blockade of the city. Previous, however, to this action, his Royal Highness obtained a victory in the wood of St. Amand, in which the French general Dampierre was slain: he was afterwards interred with great funeral pomp, on Mount St. Michael, which place the republicans swore to maintain to the last extremity, but which the gallantry of the duke and his troops soon obliged them to abandon.

The intrenchments were soon after opened, and a regular and incessant bombardment took place, which destroyed nearly half the city, 4000 of its troops, &c. and (which was much regretted) the celebrated church of St. Nicholas. His highness carried a horn-work, by springing a mine near it on the 27th; a circumstance which so much intimidated the enemy, many of whom it blew into the air, that the garrison, city and citadel, surrendered; and on the 1st of August the French marched out, to the number of 6000, grounding their arms and colours at the feet of the duke, leaving behind them an infinite number of cannon, mortars, and ammunition.

The environs of Valenciennes may, also, be styled a granary of France, and they are said to have kept at work, previous to the war, 1000 looms. Its com-

merce chiefly consists of lace, cambricks, linen, and coal, the latter of which is exported in large quantities by the Scheldt, as far as Antwerp. Hence it is that this post is of such importance to the allies, from its situation on that navigable river, which will admit of the transportation of every thing necessary for the ensuing campaign.

The works, which were destroyed at the time of the siege, have been repaired, and several additions made, 6000 peasants having been employed for that purpose.

Before I quit the description of this key of Hainault, it would be injustice to the talents and intrepidity of the Duke, and his royal brothers, princes Ernest and Augustus; to the discipline and courage of the British and Hanoverian troops; to the skill and perseverance of general Abercrombie, colonel Leach, and major Doyle; and indeed to the credit of the whole of the British and Hanoverian armies, were it not to be recorded here, that a more military, glorious, brilliant, and better-conducted siege never graced the annals of history.

Such was the miserable appearance of the garrison when they marched out, that his Royal Highness, with his accustomed humanity, presented them with twelve large fat oxen, to supply their wants, during their march to their out-posts, between which and this city they had no hopes of relief.



## MAUBEUGE.

**T**HE illustrious and celebrated chapter of *Dames Chanoinesses*, in this city, was its origin, and is now, indeed, its greatest ornament. Maubeuge is situated on the Sambre, four leagues from Mons and Avesnes, and seven from Valenciennes.

The French having rendered themselves masters of this city, and having retained possession of it by the treaty of Nimeguen, concluded in 1678, rendered it a place of great strength and regularity.

Lewis the XIVth. caused all the old walls to be destroyed, and to be erected in their stead other fortifications and new gates; the execution of which was given to Mons. Vauban. Several houses, together with the parish-church of St. Peter, were razed to the ground, to make place for an hexagon.

The barracks are very commodious, the subterraneous passages are kept in excellent condition, and the garrison is in general very numerous.

The jurisdiction of Maubeuge extends (exclusive of this city and that of Landrecies) over seventy-one boroughs and villages, the principal of which are Barbançon, a principality; *Solre-le-Château*, a county; and Trelong, Jumont, Lieffies, Cour-Soire, &c. The abbey of Haumont, of the order of St. Benedict, is

on the Sambre, a short league from the town, and two leagues from thence. On the road to Thuin is that of La Thure, of the order of St. Augustin.

Immediately after the surrender of Le Quesnoy, prince Cobourg marched against this city, and surrounded it with a variety of small encampments, in October, 1793. The French, who were intrenched on the side of the hill to the north of Maubeuge, made every preparation, and used every effort to defend themselves, and the town, notwithstanding all communication had been cut off by the allies. The duke of York was at this time encamped on the north-side of the wood Mormal, his head quarters being at Angle-Fontaine, between Landrecies and Le Quesnoy.

This army of observation having Cambray on its right, and Landrecies on its left, kept the enemy from penetrating the rear of the Austrians: the French, however, finding it impossible to relieve Maubeuge, without further assistance, gave orders immediately for assembling the whole of the army of the north, which they soon effected, by means of horses, carriages, &c. and then took post between the fortresses Landrecies and Avesnes, the left joining the former, and the right the latter, with the Sambre in the front.

At six o'clock, on the 15th of October, 1793, the enemy attacked, in prodigious columns, some of the out-posts of the prince of Cobourg, at St. Aubin, Monacau, &c. on the south of the Sambre, obliged them



them to re-cross it, and to form a line at Barliamont, a small town situate on that river : at eight the same morning a terrible cannonading took place, at only 2000 yards distance, and soon after several parties of both armies engaged with small arms.

The Austrians maintained their post with great courage during the whole day, destroying at least 8000 of the enemy, with a loss on their side, in killed and wounded, of 1500 men. Night coming on, and intelligence being received that the French were assembling in greater bodies, prince Cobourg made a retrograde motion towards Bavai, and the French retreated soon after to nearly two leagues, having first relieved Maubeuge.

The prince, expecting that the enemy would renew the battle, broke up his small encampments, and made the necessary preparations, but in this he was deceived. As to the duke of York, it was impossible that he could quit his post at Angle-Fontaine ; and from the number of rivers, enclosures, and other impediments, it was also impossible for the cavalry of the allies to come into action on the south of the Sambre, a circumstance which the French took advantage of, and thereby accomplished their end, though at the loss of so many lives.

## CONDE.

THE name of this city owes its origin to the old word *condate*; in Latin *condatum*, and signifies in the language of the Gauls the same as *confluent*, in French, (*i. e.*) *confluence* or *meeting* of two rivers. Here the Hofneau and Escaut join, and form very extensive marshes, which can be inundated at pleasure.

This city is two leagues from Valenciennes, by the Tournay road, from which last place it is separate four leagues, and has three gates; and, without speaking of its naturally advantageous situation, the fortifications of Villers have rendered it of great importance, and very difficult to subdue.

The town is divided into two manors, and the first is called the LORDSHIP OF THE CHATEAU, an ancient building, surrounded by the Hofneau and Escaut, with towers and walls of great strength. It is also asserted, that this *château* (castle) gave the name of Condé to the city, and that *Condæus* built it before the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ, in order to stop the progress of Julius Cæsar, and to enable him to oppose that aspiring prince. It is also affirmed, that the bridge *Scaldis*, renowned in the commentaries of Cæsar, stood in Condé. The collegiate church of this city is dedicated to the Virgin and Holy Innocents: there is a chapter of twenty-two canons, having at their head a provost and dean.



In 1478 Condé was besieged by Lewis the XIth. of France, and notwithstanding it capitulated, it afterwards refused to comply: it was however taken, and the king appointed one Mouhy, who no sooner entered on the command, than he drove away those of the inhabitants who were not in a state to contribute to its defence.

Arch-duke Maximilian, being informed of the inhuman treatment sustained by the citizens of this place, went to their succour; but the governor, not willing to wait his arrival, assembled in the church the few remaining inhabitants of the town, under pretence of offering up prayers to the Deity, when he caused the doors to be shut, and the city set on fire in six different places, and in this situation he left it. The church was burnt, and the city reduced to the utmost misery. Lewis the XIth. hurt at the cruelty of his troops, and moved with compassion at the destruction of the church, made the chapter a present of 400 pieces of gold, or half nobles, *a la rose*, making the sum of 830 florins.

In 1580, during the religious war, a body of soldiers, under the Prince of Orange, marched out of Tournay, and arrived at Condé the 25th of November, at five in the morning, when they surprised the inhabitants in their beds, and the clergy at prayers. The city was pillaged, the communion plate, the relics of St. Wafnon, and all the other rich ornaments of the church were thrown into the fire.

The

The French took this place three different times, viz. in 1649 under Count Harcourt; in 1655 under Turenne, after three days attack; and in 1676, when Lewis XIV. besieged it in person. The out works were carried sword in hand in a few days, and the city surrendered at discretion on the 26th of April, six days after the siege began.

Condé has since that time been fortified in the most regular manner with bastions, half moons, and other works, together with ditches, which receive water from the two rivers, by means of sluices erected for the purpose.

This city having been invested for three months by an Austrian army of 12,000 men, commanded by the Princes Wurtemberg and Lambasque, it surrendered for want of provisions on the 11th July, 1793, when the garrison, consisting of 4009 soldiers, were made prisoners of war. In it were found more than 100 pieces of cannon, mortars, &c. On the 13th of the same month the Austrians entered the town, when Prince Coubourg, field marshal of the allies, issued the following proclamation.

#### PROCLAMATION.

“ Frederick, Josie, Duke of Saxe Coubourg, of  
 “ Cleves, Juliers, Engeren and Westphalia, Knt.  
 “ of the Military Grand Cross of Mary Theresa,  
 and



“ and Marshal Commandant in Chief of the  
 “ Armies of his Majesty, the Emperor, King,  
 “ and the Empire, &c. &c. &c.

“ The city, fortress, and district of Condé having  
 “ been compelled to submit to the valiant troops,  
 “ which I have the honor to command, I declare,  
 “ by the present proclamation, that I take possession  
 “ of them in the name of his Imperial and Royal  
 “ Majesty; and that I grant unto the peaceable in-  
 “ habitants of the conquered country all safety and  
 “ protection.

“ I further declare, that I will only employ that  
 “ authority, which I hold by right of conquest, for  
 “ the security of persons and property; objects which  
 “ I will use every endeavour to accomplish.

“ I insist that all clubs and unauthorized assem-  
 “ blies, of whatever nature they be, shall imme-  
 “ diately cease, being resolved to dissolve and sup-  
 “ press them by every means in my power; and  
 “ also to punish severely, militarily and exemplarily,  
 “ all persons who shall hold such clubs or assemblies  
 “ at their houses; all who shall promote or assemble  
 “ in them; all, who by word or action, shall insult  
 “ or injure the individual, and in fine, all who shall  
 “ trouble in any manner whatever, order or public  
 “ tranquility.

“ Done at my General Head Quarters, at

“ Herin, 13th July, 1793.

(Signed) “ PRINCE COUBOURG, F. M.”

## LE QUESNOY.

**T**HIS city, called in Latin, *Quercetum*, is only a small place, and is situated on the Ronelle, which, not far from it, falls into the Escaut. It is three leagues from Valenciennes and Landrecies, and five from Cambray; has two gates, one called Valenciennes gate, and the other that of the forest, so named from the wood in the neighbourhood of Mormal.

Quesnoy was several times taken in the last century. The French became masters of it under Turenne in 1654, and retained possession of it by the peace of the Pyrennees of 1659: they have since added much to its fortifications.

On the 10th of June, 1712, it was invested by the army of Prince Eugene, of Savoy; Baron Fagel, the Dutch general, commanded the siege.

This city had then a garrison of 3000 men under Labadie, lieutenant general, who surrendered himself prisoner of war the 5th of July, after eight days attack. The allies appointed Mynheer Ivoy, a Dutch quarter-master general to the command; but the French, after having re-taken Douay, appeared before Quesnoy, opened the trenches the 18th of September, under Villery, lieutenant general and chief engineer, and subdued it the 14th of October. The garrison were made prisoners of war, and conducted to Cambray,



bray, leaving behind them 80 large cannon, 169 mortars and pieces of small caliber, which had been destined for the siege of Landrecies.

The *prévôté* of Quesnoy is of great extent, and of a considerable revenue; it comprehends forty-eight boroughs and villages, beside the beautiful forest of Mormal, which extends to the territory of Vermandois in Champaign: this wood consists, for the most part, of oak trees, of which it produces a great quantity, and is a league in length, and about two in breadth.

The Austrian army, in the month of July, 1793, nearly surrounded Quesnoy: before, however, this was effected, three or four skirmishes took place in, and near, the wood of Mormal, neither of which, except the last, was of any great importance, when the enemy, out of 800 lost 300, and the rest retreated to Landrecies. This action was fought near *la maison rouge* (the red house).

The blockade being completed, shortly after intrenchments were opened on the north-west side, between Quesnoy and St. Paul, at a distance of about 3000 yards; and so vigorous was the bombardment on the side of the Austrians, as to destroy, beside numerous works, one fifth part of the town: the French garrison were in consequence thrown into the utmost confusion, and on the 11th of September surrendered themselves to general Clairfayt.

This

This city, which is in Hainault, may be considered as an advanced post to Condé and Valenciennes; and the country to the north-west of it may be said to be entirely open to the latter, as well as to Cambray, where any number of cavalry may be brought into action, and with little interruption: it is for this reason that Condé, Valenciennes and Le Quesnoy, may be considered, at present, as perfectly secure from any bombardment of the enemy, more particularly the two first cities.

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### BOUCHAIN.

IS called in Latin *Bochonium*, or *Buceinium*; is situated between marshes on the left bank of the Escaut, where it receives the Senfette, on the road from Cambray to Valenciennes, and about four leagues from each.

Bouchain, though small, is well fortified, and stands on the declivity of a hill, on one side of which runs the river, which divides the town into the upper and lower.

This city is defended by four bastions, large half-moons and deep ditches: there are also two high cavaliers that command the country, and serve as a tower and arsenal.

The duke of Orleans, brother to Lewis XIVth, besieged this place in May, 1676, while the king, having



having laid siege to Condé, covered that of Bouchain. The Prince of Orange (since William III. of England) went with an army of 40,000 men, in order to compel the duke to raise it; but fearing to oppose that of Lewis, the city was forced to surrender at discretion, eight days after the attack began. This was the first time that Bouchain ever fell.

In 1711, the allies, under the duke of Marlborough, invested this place, the direction of which was intrusted to Fagel. The trenches were opened the 21st August, and three attacks made, when, such were the fire of the besiegers, that Messrs. de Selve and Ravignan, commanders of the city, were compelled to surrender themselves, and a garrison of 2000 strong, prisoners of war, 13th September. This conquest was the more glorious to the allies, as they subdued Bouchain in sight of Villars, and his whole army, amounting to 100,000 men; but however *piquant* this victory might have proved to that general, he had his revenge the following year, when he re-took this city, which he blockaded while he reduced Le Quesnoy. The marquis of Alegre conducted this siege, having under his command forty battalions: the trenches were opened on the night of the 9th of October, and on the 19th Mr. Grovestein, the governor, with a garrison of 1200 men, became prisoners of war.

The lordship of Bouchain was that which formerly went by the name of the country of Ostrevant,

vant, so called from the Ostrogots, a wild and barbarous people who retired to these parts. At present it contains sixty-five boroughs and villages, the chief of which are Pecquencourt, Lalaing, and Maftaing, Hasnon, Haspre, &c.

The abbey of Hasnon is situated on the Scarp, three leagues from Valenciennes; and the territory of Haspre lies between Valenciennes and Cambray, on the river Selle.

Bouchain is, doubtless, a place of considerable consequence; on which account it was invested 8th August, 1793, when the famous French camp, called that of Cæsar (from Julius Cæsar having once encamped there) situate on the south of the city, was attacked and carried, and the enemy driven to Cambray and Arras, notwithstanding the superiority of their numbers, and the strength of the place.

The duke of York, at the head of the British army, on the 7th passed the river Escaut, below Cambray, on the south, and advancing rapidly on the 8th, to the heighths of Bourbon, drove also the French from their post there; and, what is very singular, almost at the same time that the Austrians took Cæsar's camp; the enemy now gave way on all sides, and soon after the allies retired, the English towards Dunkirk, in order to form the blockade of that city, and the Austrians towards Maubeuge. It was in this march of the British, that the duke of York attacked a body of the French near Lincelles, and took from them



them eleven pieces of cannon, and in which the Guards acquitted themselves in such a manner, as to astonish every military man present, by opposing and subduing a force to which they were so much inferior, that nothing but the courage of lions could have carried them through it.

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### LANDRECIES.

**I**S a small city, in a bottom, watered by the Sambre, three short leagues from Quesnoy; and the roads about it, made of river-sand, are remarkably good: it is distant from Valenciennes about eighteen miles, and from Cambray twenty-one, and is called, in Latin, *Landrecium*, or *Landracum*. The emperor Charles the Vth. besieged it in person, in 1543, with 50,000 men, and fifty pieces of cannon; but such was its resistance, that he was glad to relinquish his project, after six months attack. The garrison that so bravely defended itself, was composed of 3000 foot soldiers and 200 horse, under the orders of Mons. Alembert and La Lande.

Lewis of Nogaret, cardinal of la Valette, having been appointed general of the armies of Lewis the XIIIth. took it in 1639; at which time the city sustained three different attacks from eight batteries of cannon. On the 18th of July, 1647, it was re-taken by the Spaniards, who kept it till the year 1655, when marshals Turenne and Ferté disputed it again, and re-

duced it on the 14th of July, eighteen days after the opening of the trenches, and in sight of the Spanish army, amounting to 35,000 strong, headed by the prince of Condé.

Landrecies was united to France by the treaty of the Pyrennees, of 1659, since which time they have so much increased its works, as to render it but very little inferior to the strongest city of the Low Countries. The fortifications which have been added are four bastions, well flanked, beside other works; in the construction of which much judgment was displayed. They were begun by Ville, and completed by marshal Vauban.

In 1712, prince Eugene, commander in chief of the allies, caused this place to be invested by thirty-four battalions and thirty squadrons, under the direction of the prince of Anhalt-Dessau, but marshal Villars having seized on the posts of Denain, Marhiennes and St. Amand, from whence the allies drew their succour, the siege was raised the 31st of July.

At one league from this city stands the abbey of Maroilles, of the order of St. Benedict, the environs of which are famous for the quality and quantity of the cheeses which they produce, called *Maroilles*, or *Dauphins*.

There is also between Landrecies and Cambray, the abbey of Ferney, of the same order, situated on the Sambre.



**PHILIPPEVILLE.**

**P**HILIP II. King of Spain, called this city after his own name, which was built in 1555, by his aunt, Margaret, Queen of Hungary, *gouvernante* of the Low Countries, and on the spot where the village of Corbigny formerly stood, between the Sambre and Maës, in the territory of Liege, and county of Agimont: it is called in Latin, *Philippopolis*.

This place was built with a view to stop the progress of the French, who held Mariembourg, from which it is distant two leagues, four from Charlemont, five from Charleroi and Maubeuge, and seven from Namur. It has only one parish, the church of which is dedicated to St. Philip.

Its situation on a mountain, in the midst of a large plain, renders it naturally strong, the more so as its works are very regular; amongst which are large ditches cut out of a rock, and which are defended by five bastions covered by half-moons.

Some years after it had been built and fortified, the garrison commanded by Col. Florigny, revolted against the Spanish king: Don Juan of Austria was in consequence thereof, sent to besiege it, which he did in 1578; but he met with such opposition, that he was obliged to change the mode of his operations, and undermine the works, which, in the end, had the

desired effect, for the place surrendered on the 21st of May, on honorable terms, when half the garrison and the governor returned to their allegiance.

By the peace of the Pyrennees, Phillippeville remained in the possession of the French, who have since greatly improved it.

### AVESNES.

**T**HIS is a city situated on the river Hephre, four leagues from Landrecies and Maubeuge, and eight from Philippeville: it stands in a wood, and has a chapter of twelve canons, a provost, and a dean.

The French having subdued this place, it was made over to them by the treaty of the Pyrennees. In its environs are found a prodigious quantity of white stones, fit for building, and which sculptors use for statues: they are known by the name of the *stones of Avesnes*. This place is a peerage, and the first in Hainault. Its territory, called that of Avesnes, comprehends thirty-three boroughs and villages, beside the forest named the *Hedge of Avesnes*. Two leagues from the city is Liesies Abbey (in Latin, *Lætia*) of the order of St. Benedict.



**CHIMAY.**

**BETWEEN** the forests of Fague and Thierache, is the little city of Chimay, six leagues from Avesnes, on the river Blanche. The frequent wars to which this place has been exposed, have much impaired it: it is one of the twelve peerages of Hainault, in which there are 31 villages.

By the treaty of Ratisbonne, of the 15th of August, 1684, Chimay was united to France; but by that of Ryftwick, it was restored to Spain. At present it belongs to the former.

**BAVAI.**

**T**HE antiquity of this place is such as to merit a particular description.

Ancient geographers gave it the name of *Bagacum*, and *Bavacum Nerviorum*; a circumstance which has led many to imagine that Bavai, and not Tournay, was the capital of the Nerviens. The Romans used it as a deposit for their arms. Julius Cæsar makes mention of it in his commentaries, when he speaks of the winter-quarters of his Legions, in the county of the Bellovaces: he named it *Belgium*. The many

traces of its antiquity, the inscriptions, towers, and remains of a circus, constructed by the Romans, give a good idea of what it must have been in former days. There are also the remains of five ancient causeways, of tombs of several Roman generals, and an aqueduct which commences without the city, and which extends to three leagues from it. The causeways are made of small flints; and it has been supposed by many that Brunchaud, wife of Sigebert, king of Austrasia, erected them. The general opinion, however, is, that she only repaired them.

Bavai stands on the Osneau, five leagues from Mons; it has oftentimes been burnt and ill-treated in the latter wars, and is a *prévôté*, containing 18 villages, and subject to that of Quesnoy. Among these villages, those of Malplaquet and Blangies are celebrated for the bloody battle fought there on the 11th of September, 1709, between the French and the Allies.

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## CAMBRAY.

SEVERAL authors maintain, that Camber, king of the Sicambers, who lived in the days of Servius Hostilius, king of the Romans, was the founder of this city, and that it received his name: it is called, in Latin, *Cameracum*; and Anthony, in his itinerary, names it *Samarobrina*.

It



It is situated on the river Escaut, five leagues from Douay, seven from Valenciennes, and nine from Arras, Peronné, and St. Quintin. Its territory is ten leagues long by five broad.

Cambray is a handsome city, well built and very strong, with two castles, one called the Selles, the other the Cantampre, and a citadel erected on a height, commanding all the country. Charles V. built this citadel in 1543, in order to prevent the French from subduing the town. It has six gates, four of which are open, and two shut. As to the bridges, they were thrown down for the purpose of extending the fortifications, on which they have worked without intermission many years. The ditches on the side of Notre-Dame gate are deep, cut out of a rock, and undermined; the others are full of water, supplied from the Escaut, by means of sluices, which also serve to inundate the country; and the bastions and cavaliers, which are defended by several half moons, afford infinite satisfaction to the military character. The streets of Cambray are large and handsome, the best of which run into the grand place which contains the Town-house, a building as remarkable for its grandeur, as for its clock, which attracts the notice of every traveller. The Place d'Armes is a fine spot, and sufficiently large to admit of the whole garrison, performing a sham fight on it.

This city is famous for the cloth called cambrics, fabricated here, and which the inhabitants vend in  
large

large quantities, employing in it and its environs 2000 looms. The metropolitan church, which is dedicated to Notre-Dame, is a fine building, and the revenues of the archbishopric amount to 60,000 ecus; the chapter, which is considered as the richest and most illustrious of the country, is composed of 45 deans.

The clock belonging to it, is much admired, and was made by Berger, in 1397. It shews the hours, days and years, together with the courses of the Sun and Moon in a very curious manner. Before it strikes, a cock comes out, beats its wings, and an angel sounds a trumpet. There are also several brass figures, which, by means of springs are made to represent the passions of our Saviour, such as raising the cross, driving the nails into it, &c. &c.

Beside the metropolitan church, there is the collegiate one of St. Grey, with 36 Deans, and that of St. Croix, with a Chapter and 12 Deans.

The abbey of St. Sepulchre, of the order of St. Benedict, is a handsome building. The parish churches are St. Vaast, St. Martin, St. George, St. Nicholas, St. Elizabeth, St. Eloy, St. Gangulphe, and St. Magdalen; the last of which had a fine steeple, which was demolished in 1552, on account of the height of its spire, for from that was discovered every thing that passed in the citadel, to which it was contiguous. In 1576 the confederates of the party of the Prince of Orange, under Baron Inchy, rendered them-



themselves masters of Cambray, and the citadel. It was surprized at the beginning of October, by means of an intrigue, in which the Baron, and Gouy, commandant of the city, were the principal agents: the Spanish garrison, under one Licques, was, in consequence, made prisoners of war. In the year 1591, the troops of the Prince Parme, headed by the marquis of Roubaix, besieged it, and cut off all communication, when such was the distress of the inhabitants, that they were compelled to subsist on horses, cats and dogs; cow sold at this time, to such as could purchase it, for 200 livres, and a sheep for 50; the price of a pound of butter was 24 sols, and an ounce of salt eight.

The duke of Alençon, having been called to the assistance of the States, and declared protector of the liberty of the country, went and relieved it, and made his solemn entry, taking at the same time, as well possession of the town as of the citadel.

The Spanish general Fuentes appeared before this place, the 8th of August, 1595, when the inhabitants revolting against the governor, opened the gates to the besiegers, having first seized on the grand place. Fuentes then entered the city, and made an attack on the citadel, with 72 pieces of cannon, and with such spirit and success, that Balagny (the successor of Inchy) whom neither the king of France, nor the States could relieve, surrendered the 9th of October.

This

This city, after having long remained annexed to the house of Austria, was attacked 1677, after the surrender of Valenciennes, by Lewis XIVth, who directed the siege in person, at the head of 50,000 men, and the general Luxembourg, Schemberg, Feillade, and Lorges. The garrison at this time consisted of six regiments of infantry, and 1,400 horse, commanded by Don Pedro de Zavalla. On the 18th of March, the place was invested, and on the 28th the trenches were opened; on the 5th of April, the town capitulated, but the citadel held out twelve days longer, when the governor marched out, with the remainder of his men, reduced to the number of 2000, taking with him two pieces of cannon, and as many mortars. France has retained Cambray, ever since the year 1678, by virtue of the piece of Nimeguen: at that time it was nothing, compared to what it now is, for since that period, the French have never ceased to render it as strong as art can make it.

The Duke of York being on the 8th of August, 1793, encamped at Bournon, almost a league distant from this city, the governor entertained an idea, that it was the intention of the allied armies to bombard it, on which account he caused the suburbs to be set on fire; but on Sunday, the 11th, the British quitted this place, and proceeded towards Dunkirk, leaving part of the environs of Cambray still in flames: his Royal Highness in this march crossed the Scarp at Marchiennes, and passed by Orchies, Cioin, Lancelles, &c.



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**CATEAU-CAMBRESIS.**

**STANDS** on the Selle, on the confines of Hainault, two leagues from Landrecies, and five from Cambray; has two churches, one dedicated to St. Martin, and the other to the Virgin.

In the village of Honnecourt is an ancient abbey of Benedictions; and it was in its environs that marshals Grammont and Rantzew, and the French army, were totally defeated in 1642, by general Lamboy, who commanded the troops of Spain.

As it is situated, as before observed, between Landrecies and Cambray, the inhabitants suffer much, from the frequent skirmishes which have taken place, during the war, and also at the idea of those which are likely to happen before its conclusion.

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**THIONVILLE.**

**ACCORDING** to the opinion of many historians, this city, called in Latin, **THEONIS VILLA**, or **THEODONIS VILLA**, takes its name from the Greek, which signifies the **CITY OF THE GODS**; so called from a Temple, which formerly stood here, and which was dedicated to the Deities of the Heathens, after the manner of the famous pantheon of Rome. It is, however,

however, more likely that it derived its name from Théodon, who built the city, which is very ancient: It is in the province of Luxembourg, on the left bank of the Moselle, on the frontiers of the counties of Meffin and Barrois, five leagues from Metz and Luxembourg, and nine from Treves.

This place is so advantageously situated, and so well fortified, that it was considered as impregnable, until Francis of Lorraine, duke of Guise, subdued it for France in the year 1559, after a long and hard siege, which cost them many lives, and, amongst them, that of Peter Stozzi, marshal of France. Count Home, general to Philip the II. attempted, but in vain, to force the enemy to raise the siege. He withdrew his troops the same year into Spain, in consequence of a clause in the peace of Cateau-Cambresis, to that effect.

The French attacked this city in 1639, under the marquis of Feuquières; but the generals Piccolomini and Beck, beat and obliged him to relinquish his pursuit. Lewis of Bourbon, duke of Enghien, afterwards Prince of Condé, obtained possession of Thionville, in 1643, thirty days after the opening of the trenches, and after he had gained the battle of Rocroi, one of the most obstinate to be found in the annals of history; since that time, it has remained in the hands of the French, to whom it was given by the peace of the Pyrennees in 1659, and who in 1727, made many additions to its fortifications.

The



The Prussian army bombarded Thionville in 1792, but from the badness of the weather, occasioned by a quantity of rain that fell there, and which produced the dysentery, they were obliged to retire.

### **MONT-MEDI,**

**T**HE river Chiers runs at the foot of the mountain in which this city stands, which is surrounded by beautiful dales, woods, and mountains. It takes its name from the Latin, MONTIS-MEDIUM, or MONS-MEDIUS, so called from its situation on an height, amongst mountains, from which, however, it is of such a distance as not to be commanded by any, and, therefore, is of greater strength and importance. Mont-Medi is distinguished into the upper and lower town, both of which are fortified. Towards the north is seen the long mountain, known by the name of the HAUT-DES-FORETE, which, advancing near the gate of the city, joins to a rock, the declivity of which forms a natural esplanade to the counter-scarp; on the other side the rocks are steep, forming precipices, at the feet of which the Chiers makes many windings.

This city is three leagues from Stenai, four from Damvillers, seven from Verdun, and nine from Luxembourg, on the frontiers of BARROIS and VERDUNOIS.

The French took it in 1541, but restored it by the treaty of Crepy, three years after. In 1552 they took it again, under Henry II. but Charles V. emperor of Germany, reduced it in turn, and fortified it in the most regular manner, with a view to stop the enemy from pursuing their conquests in this quarter: it has ever since been considered as the key of the province. Mont-Medi has seven bastions, beside the fort called LA PETITE PIERRE, which defends it. Most of these works were commenced by the Chevalier Ville, but it was Vauban who completed them.

In 1657, this city sustained a siege, one of the most remarkable in history, against a numerous army of the French, commanded by Ferté Seneterre, who invested it, the beginning of June; at this time the garrison was numerous, and acted under the orders of John Allamont, baron of Malandry, who defended it in the most valiant manner, during two months; at the expiration of which, it was imagined that the French would have been compelled to have relinquished their project; but Lewis the XIV. arriving in person, just at this moment, with a reinforcement which nothing could withstand, the prospect of affairs was instantly changed: the out-works were immediately carried, sword in hand, and the governor was slain by a cannon ball, on the 5th of August. The besieged finding that the king was preparing to make a general assault, beat a parley, on the following day, and obtained an honorable capitulation. Mont-Medi was then entered by Lewis, to whom it was given by the peace of the Pyrennees, concluded in 1659.



# A CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT OF THE KINGS OF FRANCE,

*From PHARAMOND to LEWIS XVI.*

|                                                                |                          |     |                            |            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|----------------------------|------------|
| 1                                                              | PHARAMOND began to reign | 418 | died                       | 428        |
| 2                                                              | Clodion                  | 428 |                            | 448        |
| 3                                                              | Meroll                   | 448 |                            | 458        |
| 4                                                              | Childeric I.             | 458 |                            | 481        |
| 5                                                              | Clovis the Great         | 481 |                            | 511        |
| 6                                                              | Childebert               | 511 |                            | 550        |
| 7                                                              | Cletaire I.              | 550 |                            | 561        |
| 8                                                              | Cherebert                | 561 |                            | 570        |
| 9                                                              | Chilperic                | 570 | killed                     | 584        |
| 10                                                             | Clotaire II.             | 584 | died                       | 628        |
| 11                                                             | Dagobert                 | 628 |                            | 638        |
| 12                                                             | Clovis II.               | 638 |                            | 655        |
| 13                                                             | Clotaire III.            | 655 |                            | 688        |
| 14                                                             | Childeric                | 688 |                            | 711        |
| 15                                                             | Theodoric                | 711 |                            | 690        |
| 16                                                             | Clovis III.              | 690 |                            | 695        |
| 17                                                             | Childebert               | 695 |                            | 711        |
| 18                                                             | Dagobert II.             | 711 |                            | 715        |
| (Clotaire IV. assumed the name of King, but was never crowned) |                          |     |                            | 718        |
| 19                                                             | Chilperic II.            | 716 |                            | 722        |
| 20                                                             | Theodoric II.            | 722 |                            | 737        |
| 21                                                             | Childeric III.           | 743 | the last of the first race |            |
| 22                                                             | Pepin                    | 752 | died                       | 768        |
| 23                                                             | Charlemain               | 768 |                            | 814        |
| 24                                                             | Lewis I.                 | 814 |                            | 840        |
| 25                                                             | Charles the Bald         | 840 |                            | 877        |
| 26                                                             | Lewis II.                | 877 |                            | 879        |
| 27                                                             | Lewis III.               | 879 |                            | 884        |
| 28                                                             | Charles the Big          | 885 |                            | 888        |
| 29                                                             | Eudes                    | 888 |                            | 898        |
|                                                                |                          |     |                            | 30 Charles |

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